

# The Return of SHERLOCK HOLMES

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

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ILLUSTRATED BY F. D. STEELE

## The Adventure of the Second Stain

No. 13 of the Series

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HAD intended "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange" to be the last of those exploits of my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, which I should ever communicate to the public. This resolution of mine was not due to any lack of material, since I have notes of many hundreds of cases to which I have never alluded, nor was it caused by any waning interest on the part of my readers in the singular personality and unique methods of this remarkable man. The real reason lay in the reluctance which Mr. Holmes has shown to the continued publication of his experiences. So long as he was in actual professional practice the records of his successes were of some practical value to him, but since he has definitely retired from London and taken himself to study and bee farming on the Sussex downs notoriety has become hateful to him, and he has peremptorily requested that his wishes in this matter should be strictly observed. It was only upon my representing to him that I had given a promise that "The Adventure of the Second Stain" should be published when the times were ripe and pointing out to him that it is only appropriate that this long series of episodes should culminate in the most important international case which he has ever been called upon to handle that I at last succeeded in obtaining his consent that a carefully guarded account of the incident should at last be laid before the public.

It was, then, in a year, even in a decade that shall be nameless, that upon one Tuesday morning in autumn we found two visitors of European fame within the walls of our humble room in Baker street. The one, austere, high nosed, eagle-eyed and dominant, was none other than the illustrious Lord Bellingham, twice premier of Britain. The other, dark, clean cut and elegant, hardly yet of middle age and endowed with every beauty of body and of mind, was the Right Hon. Trelawney Hope, secretary for European affairs and the most rising statesman in the country. They sat side by side upon our paper littered settee, and it was easy to see from their worn and anxious faces that it was business of the most pressing importance which had brought them. The premier, thin, blue veined hands were clasped tightly over the ivory head of his umbrella, and his gaunt, ascetic face looked gloomily from Holmes to me. The European secretary pulled nervously at his mustache and fidgeted with the seals of his watch chain.

"When I discovered my loss, Mr. Holmes, which was at 8 o'clock this morning, I at once informed the prime minister. It was at his suggestion that we have both come to you."

"Have you informed the police?"

"No, sir," said the prime minister, with the quick, decisive manner for which he was famous. "We have not done so, nor is it possible that we should do so. To inform the police must, in the long run, mean to inform the public. This is what we particularly desire to avoid."

"And why, sir?"

"Because the document in question is of such immense importance that its publication might very easily—I might almost say probably—lead to European complications of the utmost moment. It is not too much to say that peace or war may hang upon the issue. Unless its recovery can be attended with the utmost secrecy then it may as well not be recovered at all, for all that is aimed at by those who have taken it is that its contents should be generally known."

"I understand. Now, Mr. Trelawney Hope, I should be much obliged if you would tell me exactly the circumstances under which this document disappeared."

"That can be done in a very few words, Mr. Holmes. The letter—for it was a letter from a foreign potentate—was received six days ago. It was of such importance that I have never left it in my safe, but I have taken it across each evening to my house in Whitehall terrace and kept it in my bedroom in a locked dispatch box. It was there last night. Of that I am certain. I actually opened the box while I was dressing for dinner and saw the document inside. This morning it was gone. The dispatch box had stood beside the glass upon my dressing table all night. I am a light sleeper, and so is my wife. We are both prepared to swear that no one could have entered the room during the night, and yet I repeat that the paper is gone."

"What time did you dine?"

"Half past 7."

"How long was it before you went to bed?"

"My wife had gone to the theater. I waited up for her. It was half past 11 before we went to our room."

"Then for four hours the dispatch box had lain unguarded?"

"No one is ever permitted to enter that room save the housemaid in the morning and my valet or my wife's maid during the rest of the day. They are both trustworthy servants and have been with us for some time. Besides, neither of them could possibly have known that there was anything more valuable than the ordinary departmental papers in my dispatch box."

"Who did know of the existence of that letter?"

"No one in the house."

"Surely your wife knew?"

"No, sir. I had said nothing to my wife until I missed the paper this morning."



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SHE SEATED HERSELF WITH HER BACK TO THE WINDOW.

The premier nodded approvingly. "I have long known, sir, how high is your sense of public duty," said he. The European secretary bowed. "You do me no more than justice, sir. Until this morning I have never breathed one word to my wife upon this matter."

"Could she have guessed?"

"No, Mr. Holmes, she could not have guessed, nor could any one have guessed."

"Have you lost any documents before?"

"No, sir."

"Who is there in England who did know of the existence of this letter?"

"Each member of the cabinet was informed of it yesterday, but the pledge of secrecy which attends every cabinet meeting was increased by the solemn warning which was given by the prime minister. Good heavens, to think that within a few hours I should myself have lost it! Besides the members of the cabinet there are two or possibly three departmental officials who know of the letter. No one else in England, Mr. Holmes, I assure you."

"But abroad?"

"I believe that no one abroad has seen it save the man who wrote it. I am well convinced that his ministers—that the usual official channels have not been employed."

Holmes considered for some little time.

"Now, sir, I must ask you more particularly what this document is, and why its disappearance should have such momentous consequences?"

The two statesmen exchanged a quick glance, and the premier's shaggy eyebrows gathered in a frown.

"Mr. Holmes, the envelope is a long, thin one of pale blue color. There is a seal of red wax stamped with a crouching lion. It is addressed in large, bold handwriting to—"

"I fear, sir," said Holmes, "that, interesting and, indeed, essential as these details are, my inquiries must go more to the root of things. What was the letter?"

"That is a state secret of the utmost importance, and I fear that I cannot tell you, nor do I see that it is necessary. If by the aid of the powers which you are said to possess you can find such an envelope as I describe, with its inclosure, you will have deserved well of your country and earned any reward which it lies in our power to bestow."

Sherlock Holmes rose with a smile. "You are two of the most busy men in the country," said he, "and in my own small way I have also a good many calls upon me. I regret exceedingly that I cannot help you in this matter, and any continuation of this interview would be a waste of time."

The premier sprang to his feet with that quick, fierce gleam of his deep-set eyes before which a cabinet has cowered. "I am not accustomed, sir," he began, but mastered his anger and resumed his seat. Then the old statesman shrugged his shoulders.

"We must accept your terms, Mr. Holmes. No doubt you are right, and it is unreasonable for us to expect you to act unless we give you our entire confidence."

"I agree with you," said the younger statesman.

"Then I will tell you, relying entirely upon your honor and that of your colleague, Dr. Watson. I may appeal to your patriotism also, for I could not imagine a greater misfortune for the country than that this affair should come out."

"You may safely trust us," said the premier, then, in a certain foreign potentate who has been ruffled by some recent colonial developments of this country. It has been written hurriedly and upon his own responsibility entirely. Inquiries have shown that his ministers know nothing of the matter. At the same time it is

couched in so unfortunate a manner and certain phrases in it are of so provocative a character that its publication would undoubtedly lead to a most dangerous state of feeling in this country. There would be such a ferment, sir, that I do not hesitate to say that within a week of the publication of that letter this country would be involved in a great war."

Holmes wrote a name upon a slip of paper and handed it to the premier. "Exactly. It was he. And it is this letter—the letter which will mean the expenditure of a thousand millions and the lives of a hundred thousand men—which has become lost in this unaccountable fashion."

"Have you informed the sender?"

"Yes, sir; a cipher telegram has been dispatched."

"Perhaps he desires the publication of the letter."

"No, sir; we have strong reason to believe that he already understands

cannot neglect all our other duties on account of this one misfortune. Should there be any fresh developments during the day we shall communicate with you, and you will no doubt let us know the results of your own inquiries."

The two statesmen bowed and walked gravely from the room.

When our illustrious visitors had departed Holmes lit his pipe in silence and sat for some time lost in the deepest thought. I was reading the morning paper when my friend gave an exclamation, sprang to his feet and laid his pipe down upon the mantelpiece.

(To be continued.)

### Why She Missed 'Rastus.'

The conversation turned on the divorce evil, when a white-haired woman from Virginia told the following story of an old black mammy whose husband had died. Meeting her one day shortly after her bereavement, the lady asked: "Well, mammy, you miss 'Rastus,' I suppose?"

"Oh, honey, I done miss him drefful. You see, Miss Cammy, honey, we's libed tubgedduh so long we done got seasoned tuh each udduh."—N. Y. Times.

### Morning Thought.

There are a few sentences which should be read by every young woman. They were written by John Ruskin, who appreciates all the graces. The thoughts are as follows: "Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close; then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others—some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourselves."

### His Own Medicine.

It is told of a central Kansas editor, whose paper has adopted "fonetic" spelling, that he recently received the following protest from an old subscriber: "I have tuk your paper for seven years, but if you kant spell eny better than you hav been doin for the las to months you may jest stopit."—Kansas City Star.

### Parsee and Christian.

In recent years several wealthy Parsees have married European wives and brought them into the Parsee fold. Now the Parsees have decided that they will admit no more converts. Even the children of the Parsees married to Christian mates will not be recognized as Parsees.

### Prefers American Porridge.

"Mr. Carnegie's baggage," says the London Express of May 8, "was forwarded from Liverpool to Skibo castle at Saturday, and included a case of oatmeal for the use of the millionaire, who, while fond of the food of his ancestors, prefers a special American brand."

### Good Advice.

Every man ought to, some time between the first and the fifteenth of each month, go through his pockets and mail the letters his wife has given. There is nothing so quickly acquired as this habit where one puts his mind to it.—Springfield (O.) Sun.

### Bark's Quick Trip.

Only one sailing vessel has ever made better time from Japan to the Columbia than the four-masted German bark Niobe, which arrived off the river early recently after a passage of 23 days from Hilo.—Portland Oregonian.

### Dust and Glory.

The winner of the Paris-Bordeaux bicycle race covered 270 miles in 20 hours and 13 minutes. He also covered himself with dust and glory, neither of which is to last long.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

### War Prices in Japan.

In spite of the war the average price of commodities in Japan was only eight per cent. higher in November and December, 1904, than in the same months of 1903.

### Elephant Pickpocket.

An elephant, with a circus, at Dundee, Scotland, put his trunk into the pocket of a farmer the other day took out a bank note for £20 (\$100) and swallowed it.

### Just a Little.

He—Can't you give me a little hope? She—Why—yes. I have a maiden aunt who is dying to get married.—Life.

### Perfectly Simple.

One way to find a woman out is to call when she is not in.—Chicago Sun.

### Gets in Front.

The wise man never talks about a mule behind its back.—N. Y. Times.

### Sabbath in Japan.

The Christian Sabbath is a legal rest day in Japan.

### Giving Her Away.

Maudie's Pa—I wish you'd get rid of that young puppy. De Soppe, who's been calling on you so much.

Maudie Herself—I've tried to snub him, papa, but he simply won't be sat upon.

Maudie's Brother—Won't he? Since when?—Cleveland Leader.

### Even Worse.

"I can't imagine anything more satisfactory," remarked the chronic kicker, "than a meal at our boarding house."

"No?" replied the sentimental youth.

"Evidently you never got a kiss from your best girl over the telephone."—Philadelphia Press.

### As Some Pictures.

"And is she very pretty?"

"No, I should say not."

"Why John told me she was as pretty as a picture."

"Well, he probably meant an amateur photograph."—Cleveland Leader.

### A Remarkable Man.

"Yes, sir, he was honest when he went into politics."

"That's nothing remarkable. Plenty of honest men have entered politics."

"But he was still honest when he came out."—Chicago Record-Herald.

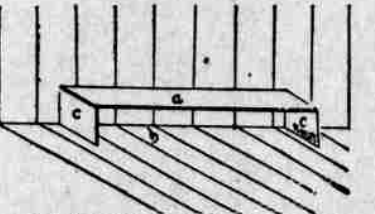
## LIVE STOCK

### A YOUNG PIG PROTECTOR.

Many Hogs Are Lost at Farrowing Time, But If This Appliance Is Used Results Are Better.

A great many pigs are lost at farrowing time; more by far than there would be if proper precautions were taken in the farrowing pens, says the Farmers' Review. Much of this loss is due to smothering, and by the mother lying on them, squeezing out their life.

Loss from this source can easily be prevented if proper protection is provided.



PROTECTION FOR YOUNG PIGS.

The cut shows one method of affording means for the young pigs to secure protection against the sow. The end pieces "a" are from six to eight inches high and as wide as the protecting board "b," which may be either six or eight inches wide. It will be found best to have this board extend all the way around the farrowing pen, or on three sides at least. Where boards are not conveniently at hand light poles may be used, or any other material that will serve the purpose of providing a suitable place. "b," where the pig may be protected.

### FATTENING HOGS.

Do Not Feed Them on Heavy Corn Ration Too Early—Such Treatment Stunts Growth.

In fattening hogs do not begin to feed a heavy corn ration too early. This will stunt the pig. I have seen pigs fed corn almost from the start and the development of their frames checked in that way, says an Illinois correspondent of the Farmers' Review. Give the growing pig a chance to develop a good-sized frame, and after the frame is about as large as you want it put in the carbonaceous feed and begin to put fat onto the frame. By that time the digestive organs of the pig will have become strong on the proteins that have been fed. I think that a good many of our swine growers lose sight of the fact that the digestive organs and the heart and lungs have to be built up on nitrogenous food and if that kind of food is not given in abundance the said internal organs will never be very strong or vigorous, and hence never be in a condition to handle large quantities of food to advantage.

I believe that even with the fattening hog it is a mistake to feed an entirely corn ration. It is my experience that a hog that has either clover alfalfa or milk with the corn will make a better gain on the feed given than any other way. I would not give the fattening hog much range, though I would the growing hog. But the fattening hog should not be induced to work the fat off through his lungs, which he is very likely to do if he has a large pasture to run over. We have to treat the hogs being fattened in a different manner from those being developed in frame or being kept for breeding purposes.

### HANDY CORN-CRIB DOOR.

Description of an Easy Method of Constructing an Outlet to Compartment.

Between two of the uprights of the corn crib, which are two to three feet apart, they will not drop the boards may be sawed out with beveled ends before nailing on. They are also cut at an angle crosswise, so that when placed in position it will open out. All boards cut should be numbered so that the pieces will fit their places, says the Farm and Home. When filling the crib one board after another may be put in until the crib is full. In removing the corn one or two may be piled loose at the bottom.

### LIVE STOCK NOTES.

The horse should be bedded with perfectly clean, dry straw.

The use of lambing tents by western breeders has resulted in saving a larger percentage of lambs than was formerly thought possible.

The board should be kept some distance from the sows. His quarters should be strong. He should have a good clover pasture.—Farm Journal.

If you think anything is "good enough for the hogs," they will let you know that anything is good enough for you; and that will not be very good, either.—Farm Journal.

In making the farm teams for spring work it is well to regard size, gait and strength, rather than appearances. A fast and a slow horse mated together will not give best results, unless one is learning to swear.—Midland Farmer.

### Keep Incubator Clean.

After every hatch thoroughly wash the incubation chamber with hot soap-suds and leave it open until perfectly dry and sweet. No amount of ventilation will counteract the ill of a foul chamber.

### Eligibility.

Ethel—I know he is rich, but isn't he too old to be considered eligible? Edith—On the other hand, he is too eligible to be considered old.—Puck.

### The Wall of the Postmist.

All things may come to those who wait; But life's too brief To the out fatal;—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## For Sale.

About ten minutes walk of all the factories, south of East Main street, a five tenement house that will pay 15 per cent on the price asked.

Also a six tenement block almost new, in the same locality, which will return a profit that will make a substantial increase to your income.

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Many of the daily woes of womanhood are due to sick kidneys; but too many women fail to recognize kidney trouble when they have it, and kidney diseases are fatal if neglected too long.

When a woman's back aches from morning to night—

When she feels worn out after every bit of work she has to do—

When she cannot bend or stoop without suffering twinges of pain—

When she has constant headaches, dizzy spells, bearing down pains and urinary troubles.

When she has any or all of these ailments it is a sure sign that the kidneys are not doing their duty. Uric acid and other poisons that the kidneys should filter out of the blood are carrying disease into every part of the system.

Recognize this as a danger signal. Recognize the kidneys as the cause of your many aches and pains, and to cure the kidneys use a kidney medicine.

Doan's Kidney Pills cure sick kidneys and cure them permanently. The kidneys begin to do their work properly, and pure blood, the greatest system regulator, restores the whole body to health and strength.

treated with different doctors in Waterbury who told me I had dropsy. I picked up a paper one day and read about Doan's Kidney Pills I got them and three doses relieved me somewhat. I continued their use until they cured me. The swelling went down in my feet and arms and it has never returned. I have recommended Doan's Kidney Pills and shall always do so."

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